snake-bite, and before long the necessary therapeutic agents will be distributed to the medical institutions in places where poisonous snakes abound. Much headway has not been made in the provision of labour and lying-in wards and pay wards in mofussil hospitals and it is for the Darbar Physician to persistently press for them until they are actually provided.

47. Ayurveda Department. The overhauling of the grant-in-aid *vaidyasalas* referred to in my last year's Address resulted in the elimination of 9 of them, but 10 new *vaidyasalas* have been added to the list of aided institutions in pursuance of the policy of increasing their total number to 120. The working of the Government Ayurveda Pharmacy at Trivandrum has provoked considerable adverse criticism both in the press and at the last meeting of the Legislative Council, and the question of circumscribing its operations to the requirements of the local Government Ayurveda Hospital is now engaging the attention of the Government. A Pandit Vaidyan has been detailed for publishing rare works on Ayurveda under the supervision of the Curator for the publication of Sanskrit manuscripts. The number of Ayurveda High Schools receiving grant-in-aid from the Government has increased by one in 1099.

48. Excise. Steady efforts have been put forth in recent years to promote the policy of the Excise Department, *viz.*, maximum revenue from minimum consumption, by reducing the number of shops, weakening the issue strength of liquor, and enhancing the still-head duty and tree-tax. The number of arrack shops in the excise area was reduced from 656 in 1096 to 631 in 1098, the quantity of arrack consumed going down from 1,53,159 proof gallons to 1,20,787 proof gallons during the period, which works out at 1·46 drams per head of the population, against 2·4 drams in Mysore, 2·1 drams in Cochin and 1·9 drams in Madras. The strength of arrack was reduced from 20° and 30° U. P. to 25° and 35° U. P. respectively from the beginning of 1097, while the still-head duty on jaggery and toddy arrack, which amounted to Rs. 3-2-0 and Rs. 5-10-0 in 1095, stood at Rs. 3-12-0 and Rs. 6-14-0 respectively in 1098, further increases being in contemplation for the next year. The annual rates of tree-tax have been raised from Rs. 2-8 0 to Rs. 3-8-0 in the case of the palmyrah, from Rs. 5 to Rs. 6 in the case of the cocoanut, and from Rs. 8 to Rs. 10 in the case of the sago palm. With a view to give effect to the policy of the gradual promotion of temperance foreshadowed by me at the eighteenth session of the Assembly and reiterated by the Excise Commissioner in the Legislative Council on behalf of the Government, a scheme was recently formulated by that officer, and a committee composed of officials and non-officials has been constituted to examine that scheme and submit suitable proposals. The report of this committee is awaited. The antiquated farming system in regard to toddy, which still prevails in the taluks of the State bordering on Cochin and which has been the subject of much adverse criticism, will be abolished from the commencement of next year, and the independent shop system with its concomitant of tree-tax will be introduced in those taluks as in the other parts of the State.

49. Education. Reference has already been made in my last year's Address to the appointment of a committee to consider and report on the question of a separate University for Travancore. Our conception of University education has undergone radical transformation since the publication of the report of the Calcutta University Commission, and the need for the establishment of a separate University to serve the needs of the people of this part of Southern India, with their distinctive traditions, genius and ideals, has been precipitated by the changes introduced into the constitution and character of the Madras University by the new University Act. This committee has concluded its sittings, and its report, which is now in process of drafting, is awaited. The vexed question of the admission of a larger number of students in His Highness the Maha Raja's College was considered by the Government at the beginning of the current academic year on receipt of the report of the committee appointed to make proposals in that behalf, and orders were issued for the admission of students in all classes to the maximum limit of the accommodation available. Steps are in progress for imparting instruction in Group III A of the

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